

Canadian Parliament Internship

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WHAT IS IT?

My STEP Signature Project was an education abroad opportunity to intern at the Canadian Parliament. This involved direct engagement with the House of Commons and the legislative process as an unpaid staffer in an MP's office as well as access to multiple networking and career-building opportunities on Parliament Hill.



I left Canada feeling inspired and fortunate enough to feel that I have the capability to pursue a career in immigration law and one day enact change.

HOW WAS IT TRANSFORMATIONAL?

- Being given an opportunity to be immersed in the federal politics of another country was a unique experience. It not only provided me with **the opportunity to view U.S. politics from a different lens**, but also motivated me to get further involved politically.
- The way constituencies, albeit large or small, influence structures of power fascinated me. In Canada's case, the transparency that Trudeau's Liberal government had with its citizens as well as **profound acceptance of multiculturalism** heavily impacted the relationship between Members of Parliament and their respective ridings (districts).
- I also felt very inspired and represented seeing the number of Muslim or South Asian or women MP's there were. Seeing the **diversity of perspectives and communities represented** in the House led me to feel optimistic about the future of government.
- Witnessing the ways in which policies affect various communities **opened my eyes to effective governance strategies**.



WHY DID I CHOOSE THIS PROJECT?

- This project provided me with **both a study abroad experience and a work experience**. Not only were we able to explore Ottawa but also had the opportunity to travel to Quebec City and Montreal.
- I wanted the **chance to experience a new legal system firsthand** and to gain insight into the ways various policy issues permeate across borders



During this internship, I was tasked with:

- Attending House committee meetings
- Assisting in research for policy issues
- Drafting speeches
- Responding to constituency mail

I also went out of my way to work with offices that represented my interests in immigration, foreign affairs, and indigenous populations.

